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### **QuickBooks 2008 – Watch For It!**

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It's almost here you know. I hope you're making plans, laying the groundwork, getting ready. I hope you are because these things, as anticipated as they might be, have a tendency to sneak up on you. It seems as though we've still got a lot of time and then, before you know it, IT'S HERE.

And this year, more than ever, the anticipation for many of you is more palpable than ever.

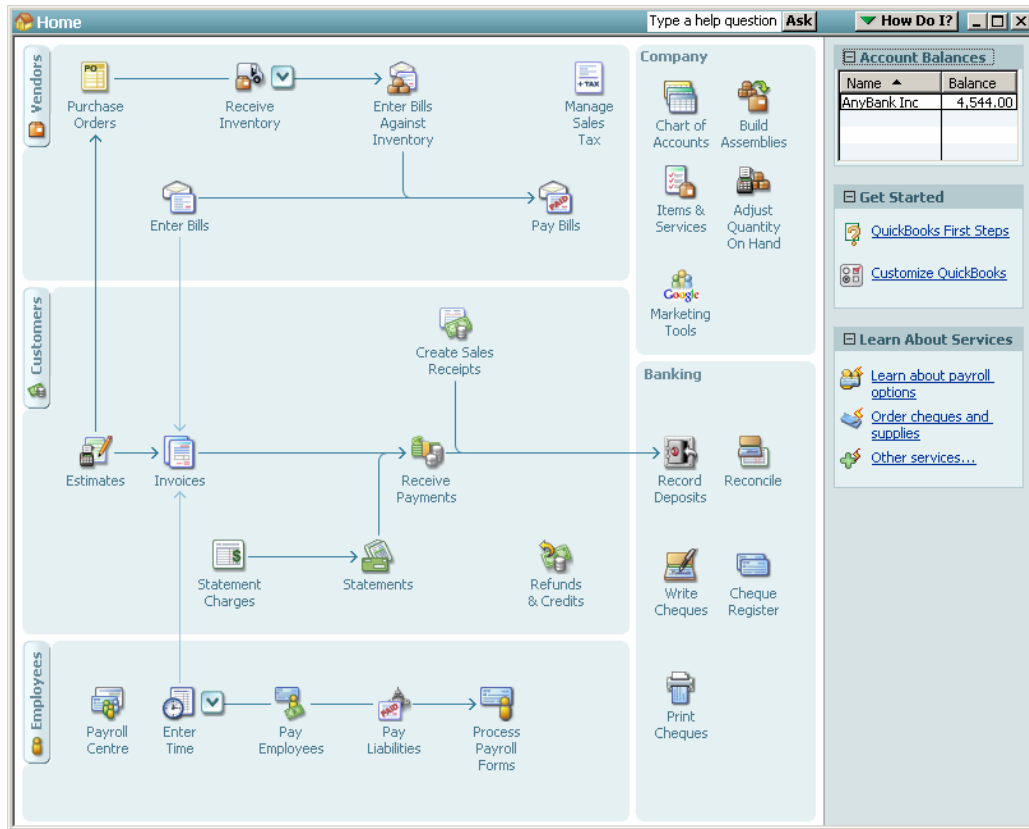
No, I'm not talking about the holiday season – I'm talking about the release of QuickBooks 2008. Unlike prior releases, this one underwent a total makeover. After seeing it you'll wonder if the software developers ever got any sleep. After checking it out, I began idly speculating at how many hours were involved in getting this particular version finished.

Because, let me tell you, this latest version is new. And not only is it new – it's different. But not just different, either – it's easier, more powerful and slicker. It's crammed with a new and improved feature-set that will actually make you believe accounting is fun (wait a minute, can we use the words "fun" and "accounting" in the same sentence?).

So, as a kind of highlight reel or 'by invitation only' sneak preview, here is my Top Five for QuickBooks 2008, gauged on my own personal scale of slick features. There are three that are revolutionary and a couple that are more subtle (I'm a fan of subtlety).

## #1 – The Home Page

With QuickBooks 2008, the multiple Navigators found in prior versions are replaced with the Home Page. Think of the Home Page as a consolidation of the existing Navigators.



Notice how the Home Page is divided into functional groups, each with its own series of workflow arrows? With QuickBooks 2008, and the Home Page that comes with it, it's now easier than ever to follow a task from beginning to end.

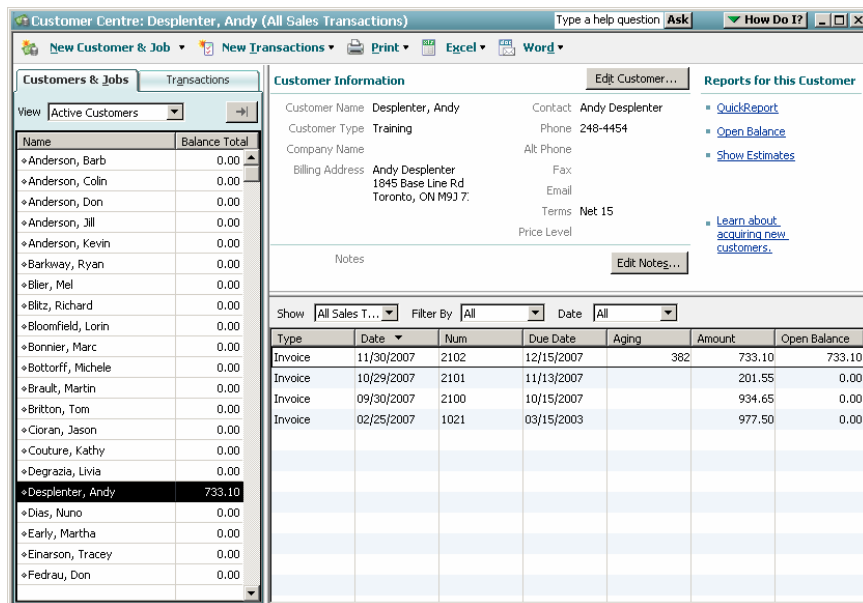
## #2 – The Navigator Bar

A spanking-new addition to QuickBooks 2008, the Navigator Bar directs you to one of four Centres: Customer, Vendor, Employee and Report. If you ever get lost (as unlikely as that will be), the Navigator bar also incorporates a Home icon, which, as the name implies, brings you right back to the Home Page.



Here's what the Navigator bar has in store for you. When you click on a Centre, like the Customer Centre, for instance, QuickBooks 2008 opens up a multi-functional window that lists all of your existing customers. Choose a customer and you'll see his contact info and historical transactions.

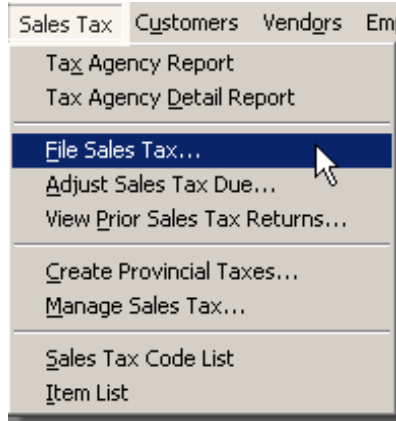
Not only is the Customer Centre a repository of a customer's profile and transactions, it's also where you can set up or edit customer details, enter transactions, view notes, view/export reports and create letters.



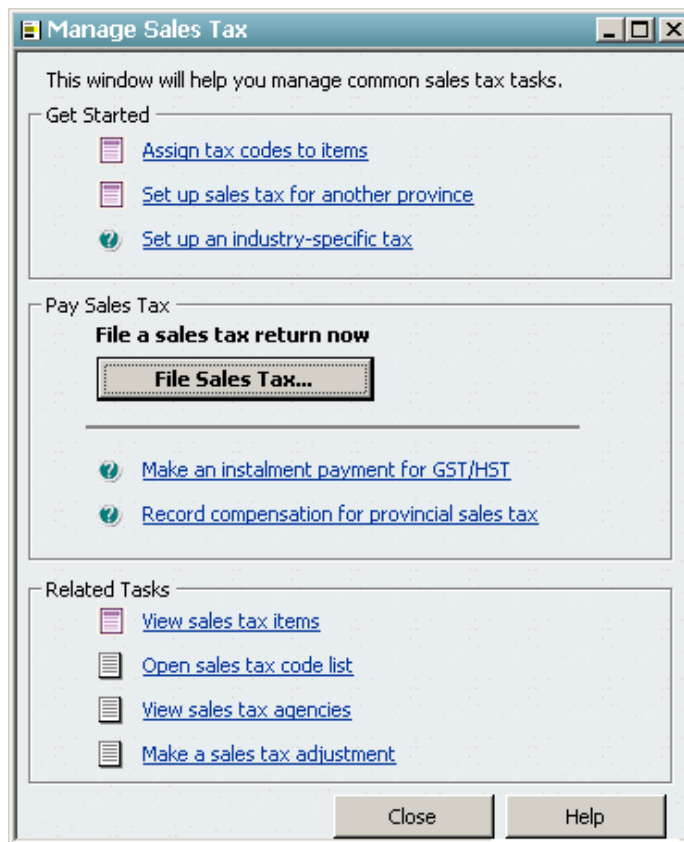
By the way, the view illustrated above is fully customizable and you can choose from a wide variety of display options.

### #3 – Manage Sales Tax

This one must have had the developers up for quite a few long nights. QuickBooks 2008 totally changes how you work with sales taxes. It's so new that Sales Tax has its own menu from the Menu bar.



With QuickBooks 2008, you can create and track sales taxes for multiple provinces, and even create industry-specific sales taxes. In addition, you can now link any sales tax to any account, and for any sales tax you can view summary or detail reports – including a report for previously filed taxes. Last, but certainly not least, you can do most of the above from the new Manage Sales Tax window.



#### #4 – Multiple Ship-to Addresses

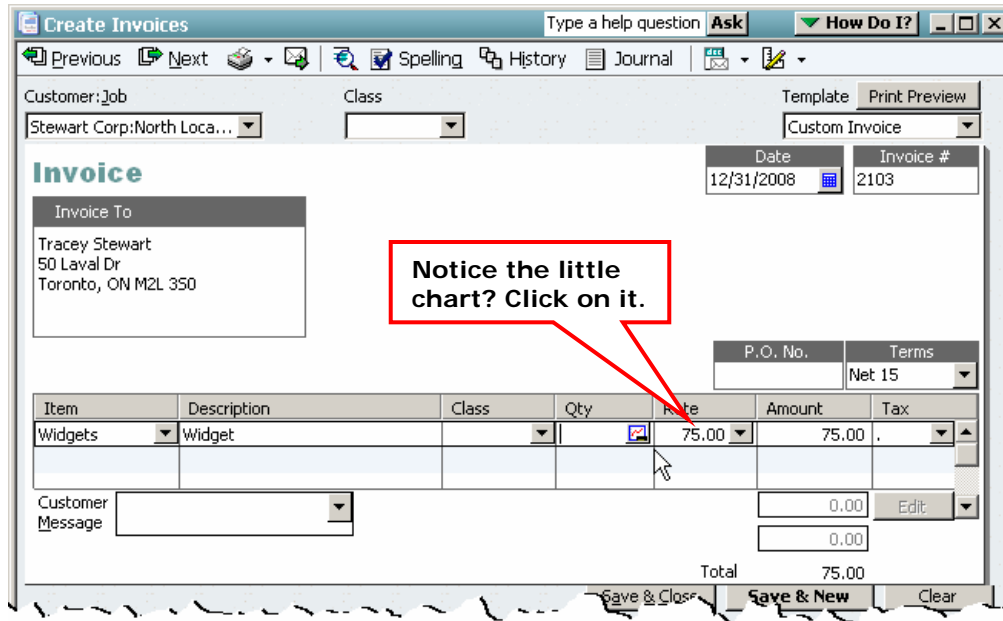
For anyone selling products or even services, you can now create multiple customer ship-to fields. Just open up the Customer's Profile window and use the Ship To drop-down arrow to create multiple addresses for each customer. How great is that?

The screenshot shows the 'Edit Customer' window for 'Bonnier, Marc'. The 'Address Info' tab is active, displaying fields for Company Name, Contact (Marc Bonnier), Mr./Ms./... (Mr), Phone (555-8777), First Name (Marc), M.I., Last Name (Bonnier), FAX, Alt. Phone, Alt. Contact, E-mail, and Cc. The 'Addresses' section shows an 'Invoice To' address for Marc Bonnier and a 'Ship To' dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is open, showing options: '< Add New >', 'Ship To 1', and 'Ship To 2' (which is selected). Below the dropdown are buttons for 'Add New', 'Edit', and 'Delete', and a checkbox for 'Default shipping address'. On the right side of the window, there are buttons for 'OK', 'Cancel', 'Notes', 'Help', and a checkbox for 'Customer is inactive'.

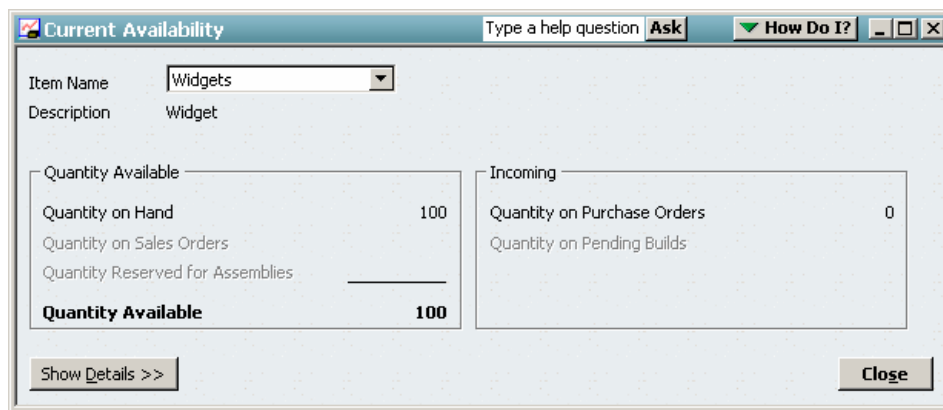
## #5 – Inventory Quantities

This is one of those little nuggets that usually goes unnoticed. But when you finally see it in action, you'll wonder how you ever lived without it.

When preparing a product invoice, notice the little chart in the quantity field?



When you click on the chart, QuickBooks 2008 opens an availability window that gives you that item's stock status. I love this feature!



There are so many new features in QuickBooks 2008 that I could easily show you another five, like changes to customer receipts, the new EasyStep Interview, improved forms customizing and so on.

As soon as you get your copy of QuickBooks 2008, load it right away and put it through the paces. Oh yeah, wait a minute...did I tell you about the new Pay Bills confirmation window?

*(Editor's Note: Before you load your copy of QuickBooks 2008 and upgrade your file, make sure to follow the instructions provided in the QuickBooks Upgrader Guide. The Guide includes important instructions for multicurrency transactions, GST filing, etc.)*